

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICA-20 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02 HA-05
/115 W

-----057162 261200Z /11

P R 261129Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0643
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13486

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: 104TH EXBD: AGENDA ITEM 5.5.4 ON
MASS MEDIA DECLARATION

1. SECRETARIAT RELEASED TO MEMBERS ON APRIL 25 DOCUMENT
104 EX/28: REPORT OF THE DG ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
19 C/RES 4.L43 CONCERNING A FINAL DRAFT DECLARATION ON
THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE
MASS MEDIA IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING AND IN COMBATING WAR PROPAGANDA,
RACIALISM AND APARTHEID.

2. ESSENCE OF THIS DOCUMENT (BEING AIR POUCHED) IS THAT
VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS OF THIS ITEM HAVE REVEALED THAT
THE OPINIONS OF THE DELEGATIONS, SPECIALISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHOM HE CONSULTED FELL INTO FIVE CATEGORIES, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE REVISED TEXT IS SATISFACTORY

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THIS FIRST CATEGORY INCLUDES THE OPINIONS OF
THOSE WHO CONSIDER THAT THE REVISED TEXT CONSTITUTES A
SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE, BETTER BALANCED AND LESS CONTROVERSIAL THAN THAT SUBMITTED IN NAIROBI, AND THAT IT
MIGHT WELL PRODUCE THE DESIRED CONSENSUS, SUBJECT TO
MINOR CHANGES AS NECESSARY. SOME EXPERTS NEVERTHELESS
CONSIDER THAT THE DRAFT CONTAINS CONCESSIONS WHICH

REPRESENT THE LIMIT OF WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE.

- (B) THE REVISED TEXT CONSTITUTES AN ACCEPTABLE
BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, SUBJECT TO IMPROVEMENTS
AT A LATER DATE

THE OPINIONS WHICH FALL INTO THE SECOND
CATEGORY CONSIST OF RESERVATIONS ON ALLEGED POINTS OF
AMBIGUITY, GAPS IN THE TEXT AND THE FACT THAT IT DOES
NOT TAKE SUFFICIENT ACCOUNT OF THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED
BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS DURING THE DISCUSSION IN NAIROBI.
IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE CHANGES PROPOSED GO
IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS: ON THE ONE HAND, A SOFTENING
DOWN OF THE LANGUAGE (FOR EXAMPLE, THE "ROLE" OF THE
MASS MEDIA INSTEAD OF THEIR "USE", ABANDONING THE IDEA
OF INCLUDING GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES IN LEGISLATION IN
THIS FIELD); AND ON THE OTHER, THE PROVISIONS OF
ADDITIONAL DETAILS (ON CURRENT IMBALANCE IN INFORMATION
FLOW ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OR ON THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE
INFORMATION SITUATION AND THE AFTERMATH OF COLONIALISM,
OR NEO-COLONIALIST MANIFESTATIONS, ETC.).

- (C) THE REVISED TEXT IS NOT THE KIND OF DOCUMENT
WHICH WAS EXPECTED

INTO THIS THIRD CATEGORY FALL THE VIEWS OF
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THOSE WHO FAVOUR A COMPLETELY REWRITTEN DRAFT TO
TAKE GREATER ACCOUNT OF THE PROBLEMS OF THIRD WORLD
COUNTRIES AND PREPARE THE WAY FOR A "NEW INTERNATIONAL
INFORMATION ORDER". IT IS ARGUED THAT COMMUNICATION
PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
WORLD COMMUNITY SUFFICIENTLY FOR IT TO BE POSSIBLE TO
PROCEED BEYOND A DECLARATION WHICH WOULD BE LIMITED
TO ONE SMALL PART OF A MUCH MORE COMPLEX WHOLE.

- (D) A DRAFT DECLARATION IS NOT ADVISABLE AT THE
PRESENT TIME

THIS FOURTH CATEGORY CONTAINS THE OPINIONS
OF THOSE WHO CONSIDER IT PREFERABLE TO POSTPONE
PREPARATION OF A FINAL DRAFT DECLARATION UNTIL
COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE STUDY OF COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS, WHOSE FINAL
REPORT IS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT
ITS TWENTY-FIRST SESSION. ONCE THE REPORT OF THE

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICA-20 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02 HA-05
/115 W
-----057244 261200Z /11

P R 261129Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0644
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

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COMMISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE, IT IS ARGUED THAT GOVERNMENTS, PRO-
FESSIONAL CIRCLES AND PUBLIC OPINION WOULD HAVE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ENABLING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN
ON A FIRMER BASIS.

(E) THERE IS NO POINT IN ANY DRAFT
DECLARATION

TO THIS FIFTH AND LAST CATEGORY BELONG THE
VIEWS OF THOSE WHO STATE THAT THEY ARE OPPOSED BOTH TO
ANY KIND OF DECLARATION AND TO ANY KIND OF STANDARD-
SETTING ACTION IN THIS FIELD. THESE VIEWS ARE GENERALLY
BASED ON THE CONVICTION THAT ANY GOVERNMENTAL ACTION --
WHETHER IT CONSISTS OF ENACTING LEGISLATION, APPLYING
REGULATIONS, INTRODUCING SUPERVISION, ESTABLISHING
GUIDELINES OR MERELY MAKING AN EFFORT AT PERSUASION --
MIGHT EITHER CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION OR BE USED AS A PRETEXT FOR
UNDESIRABLE INTERPRETATIONS OR AS A JUSTIFICATION
FOR RESTRICTIVE AND ARBITRARY ACTION.

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3. DOCUMENT ENDS WITH PARA. 6 READING AS FOLLOWS:

ACCORDINGLY, GIVEN THE DIVERGENT OPINIONS AND THE DIFFICULTIES RAISED AT THIS STAGE BY THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A FINAL DRAFT DECLARATION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, AS SPECIFIED IN RESOLUTION 4.143, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHILE STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S STANDARD-SETTING ACTION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION, CONSIDERS THAT HE SHOULD REQUEST THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN.

4. PRESENT TIMETABLE CALLS FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM ON MAY FIVE. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, DECLARATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS13486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780178-0333
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780415/aaaaamag.tel
Line Count: 186
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2842907
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO: 104TH EXBD: AGENDA ITEM 5.5.4 ON MASS MEDIA DECLARATION
TAGS: PORG, SOPN, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7bbb2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014